

11. A NEW SPECIES OF *PERSOONIA* FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(With one Plate XIII.)

BY

J. W. AUDAS and P. F. MORRIS, National Herbarium, Melbourne.

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The genus *Persoonia* was described by Dr. James Edward Smith, M.D., F.R.S., in the Transactions of the Linnaean Society, London, vol. iv., p. 215 (1798). It is a large genus, the species being nearly equally divided between Eastern and Western Australia, and with the exception of a single New Zealand species (*P. Toru*) is limited to Australia. It consists chiefly of shrubs or small trees, which differ considerably in size and in the shape of their leaves; the flowers are usually yellow or white, and very similar, and the fruits which are succulent, are generally known as "Geebungs," and hence the trees and shrubs themselves.

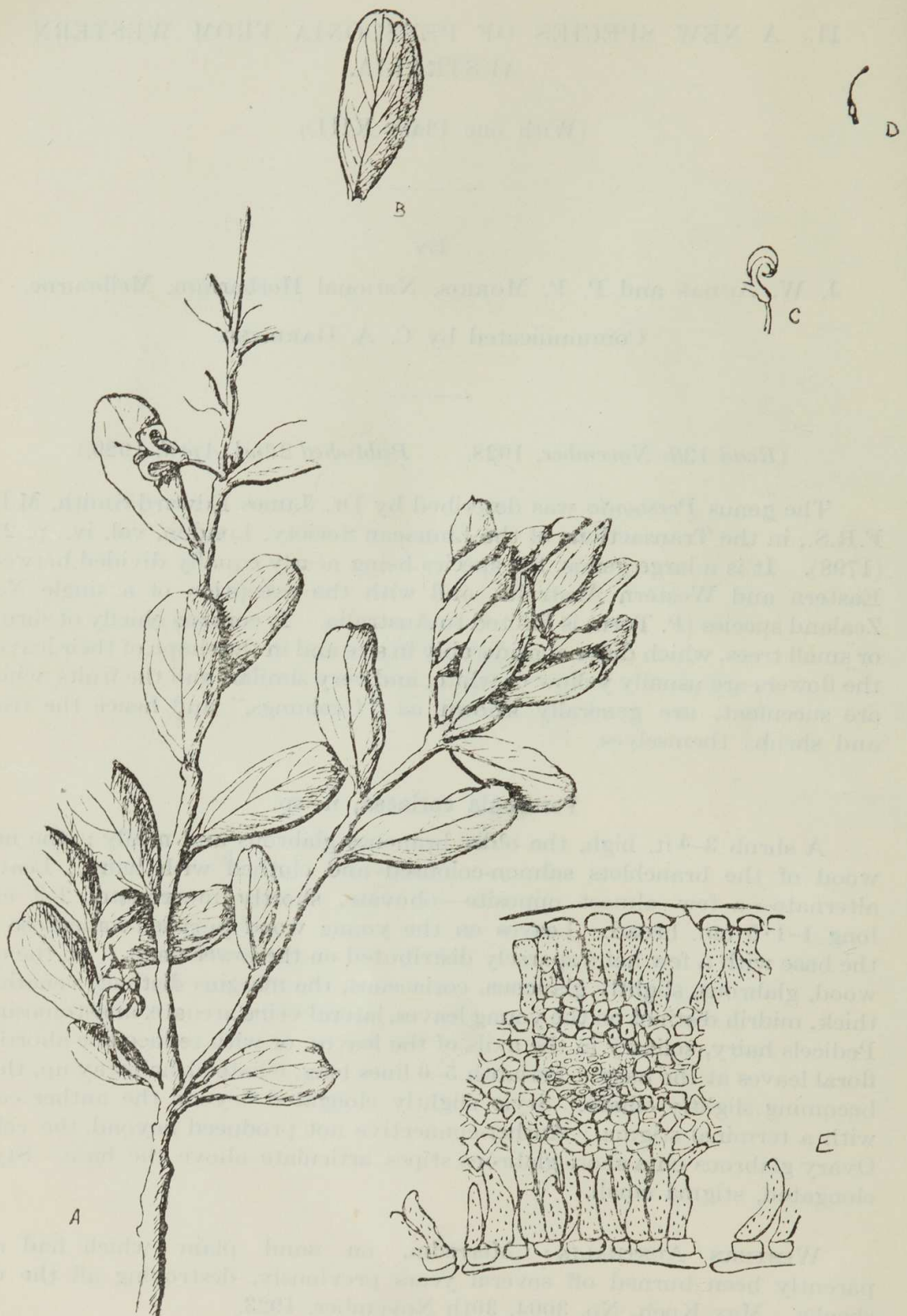
***Persoonia coriacea*, n. sp.**

A shrub 3-4 ft. high, the older branches glabrous and mealy; the new wood of the branchlets salmon-coloured and clothed with hairs. Leaves alternate—a few almost opposite—obovate, shortly mucronate, 2-3 cm. long 1-1.5 cm. broad. Leaves on the young wood purplish-tomentose at the base with a few hairs sparsely distributed on the lower parts; on the old wood, glabrous, slightly glaucous, coriaceous, the margins distinct, venation, thick, midrib distinct on the young leaves, lateral veins arcuate, anastomosing. Pedicels hairy, solitary in the axils of the leaves, or with reduced or abortive floral leaves at the base. Perianth 5-6 lines long, ciliate at half-way up, then becoming slightly ciliate. Style slightly elongated beyond the anther cells with a terminal stigma. Anther-connective not produced beyond the cells. Ovary glabrous on a short glabrous stipes articulate above the base. Style elongated, stigma small.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Merredin, on sand plain which had apparently been burned off several years previously, destroying all the old shrubs. Max Koch, No. 3004, 30th November, 1923.

This species belongs to the Section *Amblyanthera* of Bentham. It has a similar appearance to *P. marginata*, a native to New South Wales, from which it differs in the shape of its leaves, pubescence of young foliage, and in having an entirely glabrous ovary.

PLATE XIII.



Persoonia coriacea, Audas and Morris.

A.—Small twig (natural size).

B.—Single leaf (natural size).

C.—Petal and Stamen (natural size).

D.—Gynaecium (natural size).

E.—Transverse section through fragment of a leaf, showing a small vascular bundle cut across. Microscopic drawing, low power.